

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 02959 130247Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 OMB-01
/108 W

-----131554Z 086307 /45

R 122232Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5973
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMCONSUL BELIZE
USUN 584
USCINCSO

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 2959

E.O. 11652 NA
TAGS: PFOR, BH, PN, GT
SUBJ: BELIZE: GUATEMALA "REJECTS PANAMANIAN INTERFERENCE"

REF: A) GUATEMALA 2906 NOTAL, B) PANAMA 3312

1. IN FIRST REACTION BY GOG TO TORRIJOS VISIT TO BELIZE, FOREIGN
MINISTER MOLINA IS REPORTED IN MORNING PRESS MAY 12 TO HAVE SAID,
QUOTE WHATE WE KNOW ABOUT IS THE TRIP TO MEXICO AND THE STOP IN
BELIZE, BUT WE HAVE NOTHING OFFICIAL THAT HE MADE THOSE STATEMENTS
UNQUOTE (IN SUPPORT OF BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE--REF A).

QUOTE IF THEY ARE TRUE WE REJECT THEM BECAUSE WE CONSIDER THEM
A GROSS INTERFERENCE IN A QUESTION BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND
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GUATEMALA. IF THIS IS THE CASE THEN IT IS CLEAR THAT TORRIJOS
IS SIDING WITH BRITAIN. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT SURPRISING TO
GUATEMALA BECAUSE PANAMA (THROUGH TORRIJOS) HAD PREVIOUSLY
MADE CLEAR ITS POSITION ON BELIZE IN THE UN. UNQUOTE

2. QUOTE FORTUNATELY, OUR COUNTRY HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PANAMA, AND

THIS IS SUFFICIENT TO LEGITIMIZE GUATEMALA'S RIGHTS OVER THE
OCCUPIED TERRITORY OF BELIZE UNQUOTE. COMMENT: MOLINA
IS, OF COURSE, OVERSTATING LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR
GUATEMALA'S POSITION. IN THE 1976 UNGA VOTE ON BELIZE,
OF HE 18 LATIN NATIONS (EXCLUDING GUATEMALA), 8 SUPPORTED
GUATEMALA, 8 ABSTAINED AND 2 VOTED WITH BELIZE (PANAMA AND
CUBA). END COMMENT

3. IN ONLY EDITORIAL REACTION TO TORRIJOS VISIT EL GRAFICO
EDITOR JORGE CARPIO NICOLLE CRITICIZED FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR
QUOTE SLEEPING ON BELIZE UNQUOTE WHILE PRIME MINISTER
PRICE WORKS QUOTE UNCEASINGLY ON ALL FRONTS UNQUOTE FOR
BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE. HE WANRS THAT THE QUOTE ABSENCE
OF DECISIVE ACTION BY THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN POLICY
IS BRINGING GUATEMALA TO A DANGEROUS CROSSROAD: THE
INVASION OF BELIZE, THE ONLY RECOURSE LEFT TO US IN THE END.
RESPONSIBILITY WOULD PASS FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO THE
ARMY; BUT THAT TURN-OVER WOULD IMPLY SO MANY RISKS, SO
MANY DANGERS. UNQUOTE
BOSTER

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